

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 547

To amend title 13, United States Code, to require that any data relating to the incidence of poverty produced or published by the Secretary of Commerce for subnational areas be corrected for differences in the cost of living in those areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

A BILL

To amend title 13, United States Code, to require that any data relating to the incidence of poverty produced or published by the Secretary of Commerce for subnational areas be corrected for differences in the cost of living in those areas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Poverty Data Correc-
5 tion Act.”

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 13, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding after subchapter V the
4 following:

5 “SUBCHAPTER VI—POVERTY DATA

6 **“SEC. 201. CORRECTION OF SUBNATIONAL DATA RELATING**
7 **TO POVERTY.**

8 “(a) Any data relating to the incidence of poverty
9 produced or published by or for the Secretary of
10 subnational areas shall be corrected for differences in the
11 cost of living, and data produced for State and sub-State
12 areas shall be corrected for differences in the cost of living
13 for at least all States of the United States.

14 “(b) Data under this section shall be published in
15 1997 and at least every second year thereafter.

16 **SEC. 202. DEVELOPMENT OF STATE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX**
17 **AND STATE POVERTY THRESHOLDS.**

18 “(a) To correct any data relating to the incidence of
19 poverty for differences in the cost of living, the Secretary
20 shall—

21 “(1) develop or cause to be developed a State
22 cost-of-living index which ranks and assigns an index
23 value to each State using data on wages, housing,
24 and other costs relevant to the cost of living; and

25 “(2) multiply the Federal Government’s statis-
26 tical poverty thresholds by the index value for each

1 State's cost of living to produce State poverty
2 thresholds for each State.

3 “(b) The State cost-of-living index and resulting
4 State poverty thresholds shall be published prior to Sep-
5 tember 30, 1996, for calendar year 1995 and shall be up-
6 dated annually for each subsequent calendar year.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
8 tions for chapter 5 of title 13, United States Code, is
9 amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VI—POVERTY DATA

“Sec. 201. Correction of subnational data relating to poverty.

“Sec. 202. Development of State cost-of-living index and State poverty thresh-
olds.”.

